

Message Text

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ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 INR-07 INRE-00 SCSE-00

SCA-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 /027 W
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O R 132132Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6267

INFO COMDT COGARD WASHDC

COMLANTAREA COGARD NEW YORK NY

CCGDSEVEN MIAMI FLA

UNCLAS NASSAU 2079

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR EFIS BF

SUBJ: ALLEGED SHOOTING INCIDENT INVOLVING F/V SACRIFICE

REF: CCGDSEVEN 122154Z

1. REFTTEL WAS SITREP ON ALLEGED INCIDENT INVOLVING SUBJECT VESSEL AND BAHAMIAN MARINE POLICE BOAT IN WHICH CAPTAIN OF FISHING VESSEL ACCUSED BAHAMIAN POLICE OF SHOOTING UP HIS BOAT.

2. EMBASSY CONTACTED HEAD OF BAHAMIAN MARINE POLICE, MAJOR, WHOSE FIRST REACTION WAS TO DOUBT REPORT OF INCIDENT, WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE OCCURED ON DECEMBER 7, SINCE HE HAD RECEIVED NO REPORT OF IT FROM HIS MEN. POLICE BOAT NO. 2. WAS OUT ON PATROL AT TIME OF CONVERSATION, BUT RETURNED TO NASSAU MORNING OF DECEMBER 13. MAJOR INTERVIEWING ITS SKIPPER AND CREW IN ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE EXTENT OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF ANY SHOOTING INCIDENT.

3. AMBASSADOR TALKED WITH ADMIRAL WAGNER CCGDSEVEN TWICE TODAY WITH THE ADMIRAL INDICATING:

(A) COAST GUARD HAD RECOVERED 9 MM SHELLS FROM THE SACRIFICE;

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(B) THAT INTERVIEW OF CREW REVEALED THAT BOAT WAS FISHING

WITHIN REPEAT WITHIN THREE-MILE LIMIT OF THE BAHAMAS AND HAD CAUGHT 300 LOBSTERS WHICH WERE THROWN OVERBOARD WHEN BOAT WAS PURSUED;

(C) THAT THERE WAS NEVERTHELESS STILL CONSIDERABLE AMBIGUITY AS TO PRECISE LOCATION OF BOAT AND DETAILS OF THE ALLEGED SHOOTING;

(D) THAT TEMPERS WERE RUNNING HIGH AMONG CUBAN-AMERICAN FISHERMEN IN FLORIDA BOTH AS A RESULT OF SHOOTING AND OF THE ALLEGATION (ALSO UNSUBSTANTIATED) THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF CUBAN-AMERICAN BOATS HAD BEEN WARNED TO LEAVE THE BAHAMA BANKS BY USCG. RE LATTER ALLEGATION, WAGNER INDICATED THAT COAST GUARD HAD OF COURSE NOT SO WARNED FISHERMEN AND THUS IT IS UNCLEAR WHO IF ANYONE HAS IN FACT BEEN CHASING FISHING BOATS OFF OF THE BAHAMA BANKS. REGARDLESS OF FACTS, HOWEVER, ADMIRAL WAGNER ASSURED AMBASSADOR THAT FEELINGS WERE RUNNING HIGH.

4. EMBASSY ALSO TOUCHED ON MATTER WITH MINEXTAFF PERMSEC RUSSELL WHO HEARD OF ALLEGED SHOOTING VIA MIAMI TELEVISION. RUSSELL WAS INCLINED TO BE SCEPTICAL ABOUT VALIDITY OF ALLEGATION, NOTING AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT HIS IMPRESSION WAS THAT MARINE POLICE DO NOT USE 9 MM AMMUNITION.

5. WE ARE OF COURSE CONTINUING TO FOLLOW UP WITH GCOB WITH RESPONSE FROM MAJOR FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS. WILL REPORT AS MATTER CLARIFIES.
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Message Attributes

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